



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,506	08/09/2002	William Henry Yost	RCA 89826	9456
7590	03/22/2006		EXAMINER	
Joseph S Tripoli Thomson Multimedia Licensing P O Box 5312 Princeton, NJ 08540			ABEDIN, SHANTO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2136	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/089,506	YOST, WILLIAM HENRY
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Shanto M Z Abedin	2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2002.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 August 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/28/2002</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1- 5 were presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Stallings (SNMPv3: A Security Enhancement for SNMP, William Stallings, IEEE, 1998).

Regarding claim 1, Stallings teaches a method for initializing a SNMP (simple network management protocol) v3 device, wherein an SNMP manager and an SNMP agent in the SNMP agent in the SNMPv3 device utilize a Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol to enter an initial privacy key and an initial agent both generate an associated random number and public value, wherein the SNMP manager and the SNMP manager passes its public value to the SNMP agent in a configuration file, wherein the SNMP manager reads the public value of the SNMP agent through a SNMP request using an initial valid user having access to the public value of the SNMP agent, and wherein the SNMP agent and SNMP manager compute a shared secret using the Diffie Hellman key exchange protocol, wherein the method is characterized by the steps of :

Converting the shared secret into a readable password (Fig 7, element: expended hashed password string; Page 12, Col 1, lines 29-48; human readable password; concatenating and repeating

the users' password to itself to generate digest0; generating digest0 from the password; Page 12, Col 2, lines 29-40; "actual secret" shared between users and authoritative SNMP engine; single user's key; *the examiner interprets such "expended password string" or "digest0" or "digest1" as claimed "readable password" because of their similar features*);

Converting the readable password into a secret key (Page 12, Col 1, lines 38-48; Page 12, Col 2, lines 29-40; localized keys; "secret key" shared by users and authoritative SNMP engine; converting users keys to unique keys; Page 13, Col 1, lines 1-12; *the examiner interprets such "localized key" or "unique keys" or "secret keys" as claimed "secret keys" because of their similar features*); and

Setting an initial authentication key (Page 12, Col 1, lines 29-30; authentication key; Page 12, Col 2, lines 25-40; generating authentication key; Page 13, Col 1, lines 1-12; digest 2), and an initial privacy key to the value of the secret key (Page 12, Col 1, lines 29-30; privacy key; Page 12, Col 2, lines 25-40; generating encryption key).

Regarding claim 2, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Stallings teaches the method wherein the readable password comprises a 16 character password (Page 12, Col 1, lines 28-37; human-readable passwords; RFC-2274 algorithm for mapping password to key; octet privacy and authentication key; mapping password to key; Page 12, Col 2, lines 25-40; single/ plurality of password to create keys of plurality of bit length; *Stallings implies that such password can be eight or sixteen or any other suitable characters long depending on the level of security, and plurality of shorter password can be concatenated to create a longer password*).

Regarding claim 3, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Stallings teaches the method wherein the secret key comprises a 16 byte string (Page 12, Col 1, lines 29-49; Page 13, Col 1, lines 1-10; 16 octet key).

Regarding claim 4, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Stallings teaches the method further characterized in the configuration file comprises a proprietary configuration file element for passing the public value of the SNMP manager to the SNMP agent (Page 3, Col 2, lines 26- 34; set of documents defining network protocol; proprietary network management applications; Page 4, Col 2, lines 25-50; Page 9, Col 2, lines 58-66; command generator; USM files in the security related parameters; authoritative module).

Regarding claim 5, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 4, furthermore, Stallings teaches the method wherein the SNMPv3 device operates in a SNMPv1/ v2c enabled network comprising a SNMPv2c device (Page 2, Col 2, lines 1-37; SNMPv3 defines a security capability to be used in conjunction with SNMPv2 or SNMPv1), and wherein the proprietary configuration file element is ignored by the SNMPv2c device (Fig 1, element : PDU processing for SNMPv1 or SNMPv2, element: SNMPv3 USM; Table 2, element: snmpSecurityModel; Page 2, Col 2, lines 5-35; User Security Model (USM) for SNMPv3; SNMP Protocol Data Unit (PDU) for SNMPv1 and SNMPv2; Page 3, Col 2, lines 25-45; Management Information Base (MIB) for keeping local configuration data for SNMPv2; Stallings teachings of plurality of independent configuration/ security or management protocol for the different version of SNMP implies that the proprietary configuration file element used by SNMPv3 device can be ignored by the SNMPv2c device).

Conclusion

3. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire in 3 (Three) months and 0 (Zero) days from the mailing date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in ABANDONMENT of the application (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02(b)).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shanto Abedin whose telephone number is 571-272-3551. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh, can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shanto M. Z. Abedin

Examiner

Art Unit: 2136

Ayaz Sheikh
AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100